

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

***Blastopsylla occidentalis* Taylor (Homoptera: Psyllidae),
a New Psyllid Pest of *Eucalyptus* in Hawaii**J. W. Beardsley¹ and G. K. Uchida

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On June 3, 1993, we collected psyllid adults and nymphs from young juvenile foliage of *Eucalyptus* sp. (later identified as *E. grandis* W. Hill ex Maiden by a Hawaii State DLNR forester at Lihue) at the State Forestry Arboretum on the upper Wailua River, above Kapaa, Kauai. The psyllid, which appeared to be previously unreported in Hawaii, was identified by us, after consultation with Mr. Ray Gill (CDFA insect identification lab in Sacramento, California) and Mr. Bernarr Kumashiro (Hawaii Department of Agriculture, Division of Plant Industry, Honolulu, HI), and with reference to the appropriate literature, as *Blastopsylla occidentalis* Taylor (1985; J. Australian Entomol. Soc. 24:22). This species, obviously native to Australia, was already widely distributed in Australia and was known also from New Zealand and California at the time the description was published. On June 6, we collected additional specimens of *B. occidentalis* on *Eucalyptus citriodora* Hooker (lemon gum) and *E. deglupta* Blume (Mindanao gum) on the University of Hawaii campus in Manoa Valley, Honolulu.

Blastopsylla occidentalis apparently infests a wide range of *Eucalyptus* species. The hosts recorded by Taylor for the type series included ten species of this plant genus but none of the three species recorded above for Hawaii. Apparently, it does not reproduce on hosts other than *Eucalyptus* spp.

Blastopsylla occidentalis is a member of the psyllid subfamily Spondyliaspinae, a largely Australian group that occurs mostly on *Eucalyptus* and closely related genera. This psyllid is relatively small (females are about 2.0 mm long, males slightly shorter), mostly yellowish in color with darker markings, the females being more strongly marked than the males. The nymphs are yellow and are found on the young leaves and terminal buds of host trees. They produce small amounts of flocculent wax but do not form lerps (shield-like covers formed from solidified honeydew), as do many species of Spondyliaspinae.

(Editor's note: this note was previously published in the Hawaiian Entomological Society Newsletter. In view of the demise of the newsletter and its restricted distribution, the note is republished here.)